

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00647 050949Z

ACTION EA-06

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7530

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 647

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FILBINGER VISIT: CHINESE LEADERSHIP TIDBITS

REF: PEKING 645

1. DURING TABLE CONVERSATION AT BANQUET FOR VISITING WEST GERMAN POLITICIAN HANS FILBINGER, PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA REMARKED TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT TENG HSIAO-PING HAD MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRC IN THE PAST AND WAS ALSO GUILTY OF SOME MISTAKES, AND THAT HIS FUTURE WOULD DEPEND ON HIS (TENG'S) OWN INSIGHT INTO THOSE MISTAKES. COMMENT: GERMANS INTERPRET THIS AS A VEILED REFERENCE TO TENG'S MUCH-DISCUSSED ABRASIVE LEADERSHIP STYLE. A SOMEWHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION WOULD BE THAT TENG HAS REFUSED TO MAKE ANY SELF-CRITICISM FOR HIS "ERRORS" IN THE 1973-75 PERIOD, AND IS HOLDING OUT FOR A COMPLETE VINDICATION. END COMMENT. HUANG IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS SAID THAT TENG "HAD NOTHING TO DO" WITH LAST YEAR'S TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT, AND THAT THE ONLY "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" AMONG THE

PARTICIPANTS WERE THE FEW WHO HAD ATTACKED MAO AND HUA.

2. DURING TALK WITH FILBINGER VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN, IN REVIEWING CHINESE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, MADE A BIG POINT OF MAO'S HAVING NOMINATED HUA KUO-FENG PARTY FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN, A HITERTO NONEXISTENT TITLE. ACCORDING TO LI, THIS WAS DONE FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DEMOTING WANG HUNG-WEN FROM HIS "HEIR-APPARENT" POSITION, AND SHOWS THAT ALREADY AT THAT TIME MAO WAS TAKING CONCRETE ACTION AGAINST THE GANG OF FOUR.

3. GERMANS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT LI, SITTING IN ON HUA KUO-FENG'S ONE AND A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH THE FILBINGER GROUP, MADE NO SECRET OF HIS BOREDOM AS HUA COVERED NEARLY THE SAME GROUND AS LI HAD IN EARLIER TWO HOUR SESSION WITH THE GROUP.
GATES

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Message Attributes

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